

Union Calendar No.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1871

[Report No. 113-]

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985
to reform the budget baseline.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2013

Mr. WOODALL (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget

JUNE --, 2013

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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A BILL

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit
Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Baseline Reform Act
5 of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. THE BASELINE.**

7 Section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
8 Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 257. THE BASELINE.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) For any fiscal year, the base-
11 line refers to a projection of current-year levels of new
12 budget authority, outlays, or receipts and the surplus or
13 deficit for the current year, the budget year, and the ensu-
14 ing nine outyears based on laws enacted through the appli-
15 cable date.

16 “(2) The baselines referred to in paragraph (1) shall
17 be prepared annually.

18 “(b) DIRECT SPENDING AND RECEIPTS.—For the
19 budget year and each outyear, estimates for direct spend-
20 ing in the baseline shall be calculated as follows:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Laws providing or creating
22 direct spending and receipts are assumed to operate
23 in the manner specified in those laws for each such
24 year and funding for entitlement authority is as-

1 sumed to be adequate to make all payments required
2 by those laws.

3 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—(A)(i) No program estab-
4 lished by a law enacted on or before the date of en-
5 actment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 with
6 estimated current year outlays greater than
7 \$50,000,000 shall be assumed to expire in the budg-
8 et year or the outyears. The scoring of new pro-
9 grams with estimated outlays greater than
10 \$50,000,000 a year shall be based on scoring by the
11 Committees on the Budget or OMB, as applicable.
12 OMB, CBO, and the Committees on the Budget
13 shall consult on the scoring of such programs where
14 there are differences between CBO and OMB.

15 “(ii) On the expiration of the suspension of a
16 provision of law that is suspended under section 171
17 of Public Law 104–127 and that authorizes a pro-
18 gram with estimated fiscal year outlays that are
19 greater than \$50,000,000, for purposes of clause (i),
20 the program shall be assumed to continue to operate
21 in the same manner as the program operated imme-
22 diately before the expiration of the suspension.

23 “(B) The increase for veterans’ compensation
24 for a fiscal year is assumed to be the same as that

1 required by law for veterans' pensions unless other-
2 wise provided by law enacted in that session.

3 “(C) Excise taxes dedicated to a trust fund, if
4 expiring, are assumed to be extended at current
5 rates.

6 “(D) If any law expires before the budget year
7 or any outyear, then any program with estimated
8 current year outlays greater than \$50,000,000 that
9 operates under that law shall be assumed to con-
10 tinue to operate under that law as in effect imme-
11 diately before its expiration.

12 “(3) HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND.—
13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the re-
14 ceipts and disbursements of the Hospital Insurance
15 Trust Fund shall be included in all calculations re-
16 quired by this Act.

17 “(c) DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.—For the budget
18 year and each of the nine ensuing outyears, the baseline
19 shall be calculated using the following assumptions regard-
20 ing all amounts other than those covered by subsection
21 (b):

22 “(1) ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS.—Budgetary
23 resources other than unobligated balances shall be at
24 the level provided for the budget year in full-year ap-
25 propriation Acts. If for any account a full-year ap-

1 appropriation has not yet been enacted, budgetary re-
2 sources other than unobligated balances shall be at
3 the level available in the current year.

4 “(2) CURRENT-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.—If, for
5 any account, a continuing appropriation is in effect
6 for less than the entire current year, then the cur-
7 rent-year amount shall be assumed to equal the
8 amount that would be available if that continuing
9 appropriation covered the entire fiscal year. If law
10 permits the transfer of budget authority among
11 budget accounts in the current year, the current-
12 year level for an account shall reflect transfers ac-
13 complished by the submission of, or assumed for the
14 current year in, the President’s original budget for
15 the budget year.

16 “(d) UP-TO-DATE CONCEPTS.—In calculating the
17 baseline for the budget year or each of the nine ensuing
18 outyears, current-year amounts shall be calculated using
19 the concepts and definitions that are required for that
20 budget year.

21 “(e) ASSET SALES.—Amounts realized from the sale
22 of an asset shall not be included in estimates under section
23 251, 251A, 252, or 253 of this part or section 5 of the
24 Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 if that sale would

1 result in a financial cost to the Government as determined
2 pursuant to scorekeeping guidelines.

3 “(f) LONG-TERM BUDGET OUTLOOK.—On or before
4 July 1 of each year, ~~OMB~~ *CBO* shall submit to the Com-
5 mittees on the Budget of the House of Representatives
6 and the Senate the Long-Term Budget Outlook for the
7 fiscal year commencing on October 1 of that year and at
8 least the ensuing 40 fiscal years.”.